Annual Survey of Indestries, works out to be 10.8% between the period 1990-91 and 1998-99.

As per the Economic Survey 2000-01, the average annual increase in real wages (i.e. wages at current prices deflated by CPI for agricultural labour) for unskilled agricultural labour works out to 2.72% during the period 1992-93 through 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) The average annual increase in the minimum wages (at current prices) for unskilled agricultural labour in the central sphere works out to 65.34% and that for non-agricultural workers 17.66% between the period 1988 and 1998. The increase in the minimum wages is thus higher than the percentage increase in actual wages as well as consumer price indices both for industrial and agricultural workers.

Kumarakom package to Kerala

* 559. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the offers made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister during his stay at "Kumarakom package to Kerala";

(b) whether these offers in the Kumarakom package are complied with;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) The Prime Minister during his visit to Kerala on 26-12-2000 made offers to raise the Minimum Support Price of copra, set up Coconut Technology Mission, procure rubber at higher prices, allow more foreign airlines to operate from Cochin International Airport, provide clearance for Vallarpadam Container trans shipment terminal, doubling of rail lines between Ernakulam and Kayamukulam, development of tourism in the State and help the State in software development.

(b) and (c) Minimum Support Price for 2001 season has been enhanced for copra. Keeping in view the continuing decline in prices of natural Rubber, Department of Commerce, has already authorized State Trading Corporation to purchase on indent basis Natural Rubber to the extent of 20,000 tonnes to be supplied to Advance Licence Holders. For encouraging international flights

from Cochin Airport, Air India has increased its flights from 9 to 17 during the last one year. Cochin Airport has already been offered as a point of call to airlines of Kuwait, Oman and Yemen. Action has been initiated to set up container transshipment Terminal at Vallarpadam. Railways have proposed the doubling of a 17.37 Kms. long section between Ernakulam and Mulunturutti which is a part of the Ernakulam -Kayankulam via Kottayam route, in the budget 2001-02. For development of tourism in Kerala, Department of Tourism has already sanctioned 4 projects for Rs. 2.61 crore. Besides, Planning Commission has sanctioned an additional Central assistance of Rs. 1.00 crore for preparation of project for development of tourism in Kerala, out of which Rs.50.00 lakhs has been approved for release. Ministry of Information Technology has developed Software Technology Park at Thiruvananthapuram which provides comprehensive services to companies engaged in software development and exports.

(d) Does not arise.

Implementation/Completion of Projects under Mplads

*560. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of cases of irregular award of contract and deficient work execution under MPLAD Scheme have been detected;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure effective monitoring and time bound implementation/completion of projects under MPLAD Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in his report for the period ending March 2000 has mentioned about some instances of irregular award of contract and deficient work executed under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). The State-wise details of irregular award of contracts and deficient works are indicated in the Statements I and II respectively. *(See* below)

(c) The C&AG's report has been sent to all the Chief Secretaries requesting to take action on the points pertaining to them. A letter has also been sent to all MPs, Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha by MOS (S&PI) requesting them to recommend works under the Scheme strictly in accordance with the provision contained in the Guidelines on MPLADS.